



NGC News

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2014 has already seen astounding auction results for NGC-certified coins.

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NGC Ancients: Recovering a Lost Pedigree

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Counterfeit Detection: 1883 Half Dollar

A counterfeit 1883 half dollar features a large number of raised lumps



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in the fields and throughout the design elements.

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World Coins: Counterfeit China 1912 Li Yuan-Hung L&M-45, Y-321 Silver Dollar

There are two 1912 commemoratives of Li Yuan-Hung, and good-quality counterfeits exist for all issues.

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USA Coin Album: Coins of the 1950s - Part 5

Among the many coins minted in this decade, the quarter dollars are particularly interesting.

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From the NGC Archives: 1913 Buffalo Nickel, Type 1

The first issue of James E. Fraser's magnificent five-cent piece, the 1913-P Type 1 Nickel is among the most popular United States coins.

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Chinese Coins: Year of the Horse Coins Gallop In

By Peter Anthony

The 2014 Year of the Horse coins are part of the third lunar cycle coin set issued by the China Mint.

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Brazilian Pedro I Coronation 6400 Reis Sets World-record Price at NYINC

The Pedro I "Coronation Piece" more than doubled its \$200,000+ pre-auction estimate at Heritage's New York auction.

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Canadian Error Makes First Appearance at GreatCollections

This silver \$20 coin with missing edge lettering is only the second such example discovered of the sold-out issue.

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2014 America the Beautiful Quarters Silver Proof Set Available Jan. 21

The five quarters in this set honor Great Smoky Mountains National Park (Tennessee), Shenandoah National Park (Virginia), Arches National Park (Utah), Great Sand Dunes National Park (Colorado) and Everglades National Park (Florida).

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NGC-certified Trio Brings \$9,870,000 at FUN

Posted on 1/15/2014

2014 has already seen astounding auction results for NGC-certified coins.



[Click image to enlarge](#)

Three rare coins certified by Numismatic Guaranty Corporation® (NGC®) each broke \$1 million at last week's Heritage Auctions' FUN Show sale. The elusive 1787 Brasher Doubloon, graded NGC MS 63, led the sale with a price realized of nearly \$4.6 million. It is the finest certified example of the first gold coin struck in the United States.

The next highest price was achieved by a 1913 Liberty Nickel that was once the subject of an episode of Hawaii Five-O. Graded NGC MS 64, this famous rarity is the second-finest of just five pieces known and one of only three in public hands. It realized \$3.3 million.

A 1927-D Saint-Gaudens Double Eagle graded NGC MS 66 set a new record for the date when it sold for \$1,997,500. With only 12 or 13 examples known, the 1927 \$20 gold piece is the rarest regular issue United States coin struck 1793 to date.

These three rarities were among the nearly \$50 million in NGC-certified coins sold at auction during the first full week of January. In addition to the FUN Show sale, a number of auctions were conducted in conjunction with the NYINC in New York.

The NYINC results were led by a Brazil 1822R Pedro I Gold 6,400 Reis graded NGC AU 55 that realized \$499,375 in the Heritage Auctions sale. Only 64

examples were struck for presentation to dignitaries at the coronation of Pedro I as the first emperor of the newly independent Brazil, and only 16 specimens are believed to still exist.

Another six NGC-certified world coins sold for more than \$100,000 in the Heritage Auctions NYINC sale.

The top result at the Stack’s Bowers NYINC Auction, held January 10-13, was an NGC PF 64 Great Britain 1773 Pattern Five Guineas that sold for \$375,000, or more than double the presale high estimate.

Two other NGC-certified British coins realized six-figure sums at the Stack’s Bowers sale. A 1768 Pattern Two Guineas graded NGC PF 63 sold for \$170,000—more than triple the presale high estimate. Also notable is an NGC PF 61 Cameo 1820 Pattern Five Pounds that was acquired for \$160,000.

“The year has started with a number of fantastic results for NGC-certified coins,” says Mark Salzberg, NGC Chairman. “The rare coin market appears to be quite strong and these auctions show the significant demand for both US and world rarities graded by NGC.”

The FUN and NYINC sales are followed by Heritage Auctions’ January 14-16 sale of more than 1,900 world coin selections from the Eric P. Newman Collection, all of which are graded by NGC. Visit [HA.com](https://www.ha.com) to learn more and bid.

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NGC, NCS and PMG Open Hong Kong Submission Center

Posted on 1/17/2014

Submit your coins and currency to NGC, NCS and PMG at the recently opened Hong Kong submission center.

The Certified Collectibles Group (CCG) has announced the opening of a submission office in Hong Kong. Located in the fashionable Harbour City area, the fully staffed office will accept submissions for NGC, NCS and PMG, coordinate shipping, provide complete insurance coverage, and offer customer support.

To submit, collectors and dealers should contact the office at Asia@ngccoin.com or by phone at +852 2115-3639 to set up an appointment.

In addition to accepting regular submissions to NGC, NCS and PMG, the Hong Kong office will be the location for NGC on-site grading several times each year. An on-site grading schedule will soon be posted to the NGC website.

To coincide with the office opening, NGC and PMG have launched new Hong Kong websites: www.NGCcoin.hk and www.PMGnotes.hk. Collectors and dealers can find additional information and regular updates at these sites.

“The Hong Kong office will allow CCG to better serve the growing demand for NGC grading, NCS conservation and PMG grading throughout Asia,” says Steven R. Eichenbaum, CEO of CCG. “This office will significantly simplify the process of submitting coins and notes.”

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United States

NGC Expands Star Designation to World Coins

Posted on 1/21/2014

Beginning February 1, world coins will be eligible to receive the coveted NGC Star Designation.

Numismatic Guaranty Corporation® (NGC®) has announced that world coins will be eligible for its popular NGC Star Designation® (★) starting February 1, 2014. The NGC Star Designation identifies coins with exceptional eye appeal, including vibrant, colorful toning or intense luster.



Click images to enlarge.

Eye appeal is considered to be a coin's most subjective attribute, but the introduction of the NGC Star Designation in 2000 has significantly helped to standardize its definition. A registered trademark of NGC, the highly coveted NGC Star Designation distinguishes coins with exceptional eye appeal from those of the same technical grade.

With the growth in the world coin market in recent years, NGC has seen

increasing demand for an impartially assigned identifier of exceptional eye appeal for all coins.



Click images to enlarge.

“The NGC Star Designation has become the industry’s premier recognition of exceptional eye appeal for United States coins,” says Mark Salzberg, chairman of NGC. “After considerable feedback from collectors and dealers we will expand the NGC Star Designation to include world coins.

NGC applies the ★ to qualifying coins in its normal course of grading except for coins graded MS 70 and PF 70 because they are already at the ultimate grade. Coins already certified by NGC can be resubmitted and reviewed for * using the Designation Review service.



Click images to enlarge.

The NGC Star Designation population figures are reported in the online NGC Census, updated weekly. Coins with the NGC Star Designation receive a score premium in the NGC Registry.



Click images to enlarge.

For more information about the NGC Star Designation, click on “[Grading Scale & Designations](#)” under the Coin Grading menu on www.NGCcoin.com.

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2013 NGC Registry Award Winners

Posted on 1/10/2014

We applaud everyone for their individual accomplishments in each and every set, and thank all of the members who make the Collectors Society the vibrant community it is today.

Annually, NGC recognizes outstanding achievement in Registry set building. We would like to thank all of the participants in the NGC Registry and congratulate everyone on their individual accomplishments. There are now more than 72,000 collections in the NGC Registry. We are honored to have had the opportunity to review them.

Five winners were selected in each of four competitive categories: Best Classic, Best Modern, Best World and Best Presented. Additionally, we chose four winners for Custom Sets in the following categories: Best Overall, Best World, Most Creative and Most Informative. Finally, we are honoring three outstanding Collectors Journals authors.

Our team of judges reviewed all of the top sets across every category in the Registry. After much consideration, they selected the following sets. Congratulations to our winners!



Best Classic Sets

[Mervis Collection](#) — [Mervis Collection](#)

This is among the most impressive collections of early American cents ever formed. It is complete from 1793 through 1814 for all Sheldon-numbered varieties and is lacking just a few of Sheldon's NC (non-collectable) varieties. Rather than

focus on securing the finest known examples of the more common die marriages, Mr. Mervis has pursued the even more challenging goal of acquiring the extremely rare pieces of which just a few examples are known or are, in some instances, unique. There are simply too many important coins in this massive collection to single out even a few, so just relish the whole.

[KKM — *All Four Eras*](#)

It's surprising how few advanced collectors pursue the entire span of the Lincoln Cent series from 1909 through 2013, most focusing on the early years or simply stopping with the last Wheat Cent in 1958. This remarkable collection is indeed complete for every issue, with the sole exception of the 2010 SMS cent, which will certainly be added shortly. Included, too, are the major *Red Book* varieties. The quality of these coins is uniformly outstanding, one impressive example being the 1914-S cent NGC- certified as MS 65 RB. Another very tough one is the 1926-S issue in NGC MS 65 BN.

[49er — *49er Collection of Proof Seated Dimes*](#)

Old coin albums for USA proof coins began with the year 1858, as this is when the Mint codified its proof sales and first advertised them. Thus begins this superb collection of proof Seated Liberty Dimes, and it is complete for all issues through the end of the series in 1891. The lowest grade noted is NGC PF 65 for just two dates, including the very elusive 1862 edition. This collection includes a wealth of finest-certified pieces, a number of them pedigreed to the famed Phil Kaufman Collection. Also included are the extremely desirable misplaced date (MPD) varieties of 1868 and 1872.

[NMK8104 — *Kamin Libs*](#)

The Liberty Head Nickel series of 1883-1912 is extremely popular with collectors, and this collection presents these coins at their very best. It is complete for all currency strikes, and all 33 entries are gems, most of them at or near the top of the NGC Census. Some of the outstanding highlights include the rare 1885 and 1886 nickels (both NGC MS 65), 1889 and 1894 (both MS 67) and the popular branch mint issues of 1912. The Denver Mint example grades NGC MS 66+, while its companion 1912 S nickel is an amazing MS 66★, the Star (★) designation being NGC's unique identifier for superior eye appeal.

[Simpson — *Simpson Proof Indian Eagles*](#)

The collecting of vintage USA gold coins by date is a daunting task, but to do so exclusively as proof editions is an immense undertaking. This splendid collection is complete for the Saint-Gaudens Indian Head Eagle series 1908-15. All are matte, sandblast proofs with the exception of the satin proofs dated 1909-10. Each piece is a gem, and they represent some of the finest survivors of these very

limited issues. Easily the standout condition rarity is the Simpson 1910 satin proof, which has been certified by NGC as PF 67+★!



Best Modern Sets

[RHF — RHF American Eagles Complete 1986-Date](#)

It seems impossible that the American Eagle bullion coins have been coined for more than 25 years now, but these are indeed no longer the new kids on the block. This impressive collection brings together every single issue coined in silver, gold and platinum. The sheer size of this gathering is amazing, and just a single piece grades less than 70, a truly remarkable feat. Some of the major highlights include 1989 G\$50 (NGC MS 70), 1993 P G\$25 (PF 70 UC), 1994 G\$50 (MS 70), 1995 W S\$1 (PF 70 UC) and 1999 S\$1 (MS 70).

[kellwj — Rainbowroosie](#)

This complete set of Silver Roosevelt Dimes 1946-64 has a single theme—only the finest examples displaying beautiful toning. It's no secret that this coin type has a propensity to tone beautifully within coin albums or the old cardboard Uncirculated Sets issued 1947-58. Every coin grades MS 67 or higher, with all but one carrying the coveted NGC Star (★) for superior eye appeal. In addition, the majority of these coins are also FT (full torch) certified by NGC. Some outstanding highlights include 1949, 1950 S 1953 and 1957 D (all MS 68★ FT) and the surprisingly rare 1963 NGC graded MS 67+★ FT.

[huminheimer — cutty's crew](#)

Jefferson Nickels are our longest running coin series still struck in the original composition. This magnificent collection of proofs is complete for all issues 1938-2013, including the two reverse types of 1939-40, the mintmark styles of 1979 and 1981 and also the Specimen strikes of 1994 and 1997. The grade level is uniformly superb, with all pieces since 1978 grading PF 70 UC or SP 70. Top pieces include 1940 Rev of 40 (NGC certified as PF 67+), 1951 (PF 68 UC), 1965 SMS (MS 68 CA) and 1966 SMS (MS 68★ CA).

[CT104 — Ski's Silver 10Y China Panda Commemorative Coins](#)

China's Silver 10 Yuan Panda Commemorative series is now more than 20 years old, and this collection presents it in its entirety, each piece grading 69 or 70. The set kicks off with the piefort 10th Anniversary issue of 1991 (NGC certified as PF 69 UC). Some of the standout pieces include 2000 Guangzhou Expo (MS 70), the elusive 2006 Jinan Bank 10th Anniversary (MS 70) and a pair of rarities from

2007, the Xi'an City Bank (MS 69) and the Citic Bank 20th Anniversary (MS 69). This is quite an impressive series when viewed together.

[Ockday — *AlanS Kangaroos complete*](#)

Australia's Kangaroo series of silver dollar bullion coins launched 20 years ago, and this delightful collection brings together the entire span of Mint State and Proof issues including the newly-released 2014 First Sightings Dollars. It is complete for all varieties, too, and every piece grades 69 or 70. Early rarities are the 1994C and 1995C dollars with alternating reeded and plain edge (both graded NGC MS 69). Other standout coins are the 1998C and 1999C dollars, both graded PF 69 UC. A more recent rarity is the 2003 gilt edition (mintage 7,450) NGC graded MS 69.



Best World Sets

[Rudman coleccion — *RUDMAN*8 REALES.*1732-47**](#)

The milled, pillar type of Mexican eight reales coinage debuted in 1732, and this collection is nearly complete for all dates and varieties during the reign of Spain's Philip V through 1747. Most coins are illustrated, and about half include the owner's comments on rarity. The greatest rarities are found among the very early pieces, and these include 1732Mo F (NGC MS 63), 1733/2MX F (MS 63), 1733Mo MF Large Crown (MS 62) and the same issue with Small Crown (NGC MS 64). To find even a single one of these in Mint State is all but impossible.

[Poldan — *POLDAN's Victorian Florins*](#)

The florin, or two-shilling piece, was introduced in 1849 as Britain's first hesitant step toward a decimal coinage, since it was valued at one-tenth of a pound. This dazzling collection brings together the complete series of florins from the reign of Victoria through 1901. All but the very rarest issues are Mint State, and some of the outstanding pieces include the rare dates of 1854 (NGC VF 20), 1862 (MS 65) and 1863 (MS 64). Other highlights include 1868 (MS 64), the rare 1877 without die number (MS 62) and 1883 (MS 66).

[Strandcoins — *Benchmark Collection - Sixpence*](#)

After years of using British coinage, Australia received its own series in 1910. This delightful collection is complete for all Australian sixpence pieces 1910-63, after which time the coinage was decimalized. Every piece is Mint State, most of them gems. Early rarities include 1911 (NGC MS 66), 1916M (MS 68), 1918M (MS 65) and 1922 (MS 64). The final issue of King George VI, dated 1952, is a more

recent rarity, and this collection's specimen grades a very desirable MS 66. Every coin is illustrated with excellent photographs and is accompanied by the owner's variety notes.

[Stanislawski — FSD-1](#)

What is now the Polish city of Gdansk was the free city of Danzig between the world wars, and it issued its own coinage 1923-37 before succumbing to Germany's 1939 invasion of Poland. This collection features a complete set of the currency issues from pfennig through 25 gulden. Each coin is Mint State, most are illustrated with photos, and several include the owner's numismatic notes. Some notable entries include 1927 1/2G (NGC MS 64), 1923 1G (MS 66), the rare 1927 5G (MS 61) and the even more rare 25 gulden gold coin of 1923 (MS 65), of which just 800 were coined.

[COININVESTOR1943 — GB 1826 Proofs NS](#)

Britain's King George IV was quite displeased with Benedetto Pistrucci's 1820 bust of him on the empire's coinage. To celebrate its replacement with a handsome portrait by William Wyon, a complete proof set was issued in 1826 from farthing through five pounds. These 11 coins are all presented here in this historic and attractive set. All of the proofs are choice or gem, with the finest of these being the glorious half sovereign NGC certified as PF 67 UC. The rare and magnificent two-pound and five-pound gold coins are represented by pieces grading PF 65 UC and PF 63 UC, respectively.



Best Presented Sets

[coin928 — USPI Type, Eye Appeal](#)

The United States coinage issued for The Philippines from 1903-45 is here showcased in a nearly complete type set from half centavo through peso, as yet lacking just two pieces. Each coin is an attractive Mint State or Proof example, but the real story here is the immense effort that went into documenting each coin type. The owner has provided superb photos, along with very detailed commentary on both the type represented and the individual specimen on display. This set is a virtual encyclopedia of the series.

[JAA/USA Philippines Collection — Culion Island Leper Colony Coinage](#)

Though Hansen's Disease is now known to be not easily transmitted, the ancient fear of leprosy manifested itself in a series of coins that were to be used and handled only by residents of the Culion Island Leprosarium in The Philippines.

Some 19 issues were produced 1913-30, ranging in value from half centavo to peso, and this collection is now about two-thirds complete. All of the coins are illustrated with good photos, and these are accompanied by the owner's detailed notes about them. It is an excellent tutorial that should be required reading for anyone attempting to assemble this very challenging series.

[SPHansen — *Scott's Hail to the PF70 Chiefs*](#)

This collection is complete for all of the Proof Presidential Dollars 2007 to date. Each coin is a superb gem PF 70 UC. While the coins are themselves impressive, what sets this collection apart is the effort that went into presenting both the coins and the history of their subject individuals. Each piece is illustrated and accompanied by well researched essays on the administration of the particular president, as well as numismatic developments that occurred during his term(s).

[Eagles-R-It — *For They Are Forever Relevant*](#)

2013 marks the 30th anniversary of the first modern commemorative silver dollars minted by the USA. Beginning with the 1983-dated pieces for the 23rd Olympiad and continuing through the two issues for 2013, this collection is very nearly complete in both the Mint State and Proof editions. The quality of the coins is uniformly high, with most grading 70. Each entry is attractively presented with photos of the coin, as well as additional illustrations to set it in its proper context. Finally, an informative narrative tells of the coin and the theme for which it was issued.

[JWalkers — *Walking Liberty Half Dollars, 1916-1947, One Per Date*](#)

A work in progress, this challenging collection when complete will include a Walking Liberty Half Dollar for each year in which this type was minted. Aside from 1921, all of the tough years are already in place. In addition, the owner has side-stepped the common mints, selecting the scarce 1916 S and 1917 S Obverse Mintmark (both grading MS 64) to represent those years. Each entry includes good photos, as well as extensive commentary on the rarity of that date/mint in both general terms and how it relates to the particular specimen selected.



Most Creative Custom Set

[MsCoinz — *Most Original, Weirdest and Rarest Set Ever*](#)

The theme to this collection is distinctiveness in the form of unusual shapes, add-ons such as embedded gems or colorization and, finally, low mintages. All of the

coins are modern, as such characteristics were not possible until quite recently, and all are world issues. Begun in 1998, when the selection of unusual pieces was still small, the possibilities have since grown so vast that the owner of this collection has had to limit his objectives. Still, what is presented is simply amazing for both its breadth and the cleverness of the minting technology employed.



Most Informative Custom Set

[gherrmann44](#) — *The Use of Seated Imagery in Numismatics*

Images of a seated figure or figures are design elements extending back to the ancient world. In this collection is taken a broad, worldwide view of such figures from the 18th Century to the present. The oldest piece is a 1794 Conder token, while the newest is a Canadian \$3 piece dated 2013. Each coin or token is shown in excellent photographs, and the owner has provided an informative narrative about the item itself, as well as historic information that places it in its proper context.



Best World Custom Set

[morganthebrave](#) — *MTB ZAR Pattern coins*

This collection encompasses the pattern coins prepared between 1871 and 1890 for the five establishments that predated the South African Republic (ZAR). These coins were both a prelude to proposed actual coinage and objects that were desired by German numismatists of the time. The owner's goal has been nothing less than "to obtain a sample of each denomination, of each province and of each grade of Mint State and Proof patterns..." Most of these rare coins are illustrated and accompanied by extensive numismatic information about varieties and rarity.



Best Overall Custom Set

[Spencer Collection](#) — *Spencer Collection of World and US Historical Medals Including So-Called Dollars*

This is an immense collection spanning more than 300 years of medals from around the world. There is no one theme, but many of these pieces mark

successful battles and treaties, while others commemorate important events in the lives of royals, significant engineering achievements and world's fairs. Each medal is illustrated and fully described by the owner with respect to both the item itself and its role in history. Needless to say, each such entry is a valuable essay in history, with the accompanying medal adding a sense of permanence.

Collectors' Journals

The Collectors' Journal awards are our chance to highlight the great entries by our members. This area of the site is all about collectors sharing their passion for the hobby with each other. We're proud to give this award to the collectors who have done an outstanding job of journaling their collecting experience.

[jgenn](#)
[RichH](#)
[VUMC409](#)

Best in Category

And as always, we have given out the Best in Category awards for the year. A full review of the winners, including lists of the Best in Category winners can be found on our [2013 Awards Archive page](#).

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2014 Collectors Society Luncheon at FUN

Posted on 1/17/2014

The annual Collectors Society Luncheon for Registry and Message Board participants was held at the FUN Show on Saturday, January 11.

Numismatic Guaranty Corporation (NGC) and Paper Money Guaranty (PMG) hosted a Collectors Society member luncheon on Saturday, January 11, at the Florida United Numismatists (FUN) convention. Participants in the NGC Registry, PMG Registry and the Collectors Society Chat Boards were invited to attend the free lunch with representatives of NGC and PMG.

More than 160 members attended the lunch. Mark Salzberg, chairman of NGC and PMG, Chad Hawk, PMG Finalizer, and Max Spiegel, VP of Sales & Marketing, spoke about highlights from the past year, upcoming developments, and answered questions from guests.

The Collectors Society offers several membership tiers for collectors of coins, comics and notes. Free members can access the Registry, population data and other online services while paid members can submit directly to NGC, NCS, PMG, CGC and CCS. To learn more about Collectors Society membership options, [click here](#).





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United States

NGC Accepting Submissions at Long Beach Expo

Posted on 1/15/2014

Stop by the NGC table in Long Beach to drop off your regular grading submissions.

NGC will be accepting regular submissions for all service levels* at the [Long Beach Expo](#), at the Long Beach Convention Center in Long Beach, CA from Thursday, January 30 to 12:00 noon on Saturday, February 1, 2014. NGC Table 431. All submissions will be sent to our office in Sarasota, FL. Services include World Services, Ancient Coin Services, Bulk, PHOTO PROOF® and more. Check with show representatives for details including cut-off times.



Note:

- Due to the special handling required, NGC does not accept submissions of the following coins at this show for regular service submissions to be returned to the NGC offices: Coins over 3.5" (90 mm) in diameter and .39" (10 mm) in depth, 2013 American Buffalo One Ounce Gold Reverse Proof, West Point 2-coin set, San Francisco 2-coin Proof set, Coin & Currency sets, 25th Anniversary Eagles, 20th Anniversary Eagles, Early Releases, American Liberty Series and 10th Anniversary Platinum Sets. These submissions must be sent directly to Sarasota, FL, by the submitter.
- *Does not include 5-ounce coins.

Questions should be directed to NGC customer service at service@NGCcoin.com or 1-800-NGC-COIN (642-2646).

Visit our table for answers to any questions about the services offered by NGC. Please remember that NGC does not provide opinions or free evaluations of coins

at trade shows.

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United States

NGC Introduction to Grading Class

Posted on 1/21/2014

NGC will be offering its popular Introduction to Grading class on March 29, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Register today!

NGC will conduct an Introduction to Grading class on Saturday, March 29, 2014 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Whitman Baltimore Expo. The cost for the class is \$149 to the first 20 paid NGC Collectors Society members (new attendees only) who register. Lunch will be provided. Classroom space is provided courtesy of the Whitman Expo.

Introduction to Grading will cover a variety of important grading topics including proper lighting, the subtleties of About Uncirculated versus Mint State, counterfeit detection, the differences between strike versus wear and the key attributes commonly considered to constitute positive eye appeal.

The class will be taught by NGC grader John Schuch, II. John joined NGC in 2004 and has worked as a grader for 9 years, advancing his knowledge and passion for rare coins. He has taught numerous grading classes at the American Numismatic Association's Summer Seminar.

The class is limited to 20 students and is available to paid NGC Collectors Society members on a first-come basis. New attendees only. **Advance registration is**



John Schuch, II, NGC Grader

The son of a coin dealer, John grew up around coins. He started working summers for his father at the age of 15, bird-dogging coins for dealers. After high school, he worked full time for his father's business. At 20, John enlisted in the Army and served for four years. After

required. Click [here](#) to register. Enter code: grading329 and press the "Proceed" button. You will receive an email with payment instructions.

If the class is full, email class@ngccoin.com to be added to a Wait List. You will be contacted if space becomes available.

leaving the Army, he decided to pursue numismatics as his career. He joined NGC in 2004 and has worked as a grader for 9 years, rising up the ranks advancing his knowledge and passion for rare coins.

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United States

NCS Announces Changes to 2014 Conservation Services

Posted on 12/19/2013

NCS service updates are effective January 15.

NCS has introduced a discounted Modern Gold tier, which is \$50 per coin and includes both NCS conservation and NGC grading. NCS has also updated its existing Modern tier to "Modern Non-Gold Conservation and Grading." The fee for that tier is unchanged at \$27 per coin.

After feedback from collectors and dealers, NCS will discontinue its Conservation and Return Raw tier, which was seldom used.

All submissions received by NCS after January 15, 2014, should be accompanied by the new submission form. A fillable PDF submission form, accessible by Collectors Society members on the website, will be updated as well.

These changes will be posted to the Services and Fees schedule on NCScoin.com in January.

As always, we appreciate your business and we are committed to offering the highest level of service possible. If you have any questions, please contact NCS Customer Service at 1.866.NCS.COIN or service@ncscoin.com

NCS is an independent member of the Certified Collectibles Group.

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United States

NGC Ancients: Recovering a Lost Pedigree

Posted on 1/29/2014

While grading a Celtic silver tetradrachm, NGC Ancients uncovers a lost pedigree.

Ancient coins with illustrious pedigrees often are submitted to NGC Ancients for grading and encapsulation. Usually the submitter is aware of the pedigree and requests its inclusion on the label. However, in some cases we uncover a lost pedigree and are able to share with the submitter our fortunate discovery.

Recently we were identifying and grading a Celtic silver tetradrachm that had ‘cabinet tone’ suggesting it was from an old collection. It was of a rare and unusual type that copies the coins of Damastium (Damastion), a city in Western Greece. Even the normal coins of this city are crude, so distinguishing the Celtic imitations from the regular issues is especially difficult.

The obverse shows a highly stylized head of the Greek god Apollo wearing a laurel wreath. The reverse shows an ornate tripod flanked by the somewhat poorly executed inscription ΔΑΜΑΣΤΙΝΩΝ, meaning “(coin) of the people of Damastium.”

Research began with the standard reference *The Coinage of Damastion and the Lesser Coinages of the Illyro-Paeonian Region* by J. M. F. May, published in 1939 at the Oxford University Press. On plate 8 of this work an image of the very coin (coin 100a) submitted to NGC was found.

The coin belongs to May’s group IX, comprised of several coins which May says,



“...deserve separate treatment on account of the remarkable style of their reverse types and the equally remarkable inscriptions found on them.” May notes that the reverse designs and inscriptions in this group begin somewhat normally (as with this coin, 100a) but that they “...suddenly develop into completely barbaric conceptions....”

May lists three special notations for coin 100a:

1. De Nanteuil. Catalogue, 286, no. 862, pl. lii.
2. E. Babelon, II.iv, pl. cclxxxv.15.
3. White-King Collection; Sotheby Catalogue, April 1909, no. 147.

The first refers to the important private collection of Henri de Nanteuil, published in two volumes in Paris in 1925 by Jules Florange and Louis Ciani. In that work, *Collection de monnaies grecques*, this coin is listed as number 862 and is illustrated on plate LII.

The second refers to the most important reference work on Greek coins from the early 20th Century, *Traité des monnaies grecques et romaines*, in which this coin is listed as number 397 in volume IV of part II and is illustrated as figure 15 on plate cclxxxv. This work was published in nine volumes of text and plates from 1901 to 1932, based on the work of Ernest Babelon, curator of coins at the Cabinet des Médailles in Paris. The section of *Traité* in which this Celtic coin is cited was published in 1926, more than two years after Babelon had died. *Traité* includes a notation that the coin belonged to Henri de Nanteuil. Though this coin never was in the collection of the Cabinet des Médailles, many of de Nanteuil's coins were cited and illustrated in *Traité* because of their value to researchers.



The third notation refers to this coin as having once been in the collection of Professor L. White-King, which was sold at auction by Sotheby's in London on April 22 and 23, 1909 (this coin, lot 147, was sold on April 22).

Though discovering this coin's pedigree was of great interest there is still more to the story. The coin was described in May's study as weighing 13.25 grams, whereas the coin in NGC's possession – undoubtedly the same coin illustrated by

May – actually weighed 12.79 grams.

Even in the best of references there are mistakes and typographical errors, so further research was required. The first step was Babelon’s *Traité*, where the coin also is listed with a weight of 13.25 grams. This obviously was the source of the weight cited by May in his specialized study published some 15 years later.

In the de Nanteuil collection, published in 1925, a year before the relevant part of *Traité*, the weight of this coin is listed as 12.73 grams. Though not a precise match for the weight recorded at NGC, it was much closer than the one recorded in *Traité* and May. The de Nanteuil catalog would have been available to May when he composed his study; he presumably saw the discrepancy and chose to adopt the weight listed in *Traité*.

The mystery finally was solved upon consulting the earliest recorded provenance, the 1909 sale of the Professor L. White-King collection. In that catalog, Sotheby’s describes the coin as weighing 197.5 grains, the equivalent of 12.80 grams, a nearly perfect match for the 12.79 grams recorded by NGC.

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Counterfeit Detection: 1883 Half Dollar

Posted on 1/21/2014

A counterfeit 1883 half dollar features a large number of raised lumps in the fields and throughout the design elements.

The United States Mint shifted its attention from half dollars to the Morgan Dollar after its launch in 1878. As a result, Seated Liberty Half Dollar production plummeted and from 1879 to 1890 there was a series of low mintage issues struck exclusively at the Philadelphia Mint. During this period, the highest half dollar mintage, excluding proofs, was only 12,001 pieces, while the lowest was a mere 4,400 specimens.

The 1883 Half Dollar, for example, had an emission of just 8,000 coins. Unsurprisingly, even low grade 1883 Half Dollars sell for several hundred dollars although values for Mint State examples are comparable to those for the significantly higher mintage Philadelphia issues in the 1870s.

NGC recently identified a counterfeit 1883 Half Dollar that is typical of the Chinese-made forgeries that have entered the market in the last decade. The most noticeable issue with this piece is the large number of raised lumps in the fields and throughout the design elements on both sides. This is a key diagnostic for fakes; raised lumps like these are virtually never seen on genuine specimens.



Counterfeit 1883 Seated Half Dollar
Click images to enlarge.

The details are also unusually soft, even cartoonish in places. The digits in the date are particularly weak and slender when compared to a legitimate issue.



Click image to enlarge.

The counterfeiter artificially toned this coin to make it look older, a common practice for newly made Chinese fakes. This process has resulted in odd coloration around the stars and letters in the periphery as well as a few patches of exceptionally dark toning.

All of these issues make this counterfeit relatively easy to identify. Although this forgery targeted a rare date, similar Chinese-made fakes exist for virtually all classic US coins. By looking for the same diagnostics as seen on this piece, many of these spurious pieces can be quickly identified.

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World Coins: Counterfeit China 1912 Li Yuan-Hung L&M-45, Y- 321 Silver Dollar

Posted on 1/21/2014

There are two 1912 commemoratives of Li Yuan-Hung, and good-quality counterfeits exist for all issues.

Deceptive counterfeit Chinese coins continue to emerge onto the coin marketplace. One example is this counterfeit China 1912 Silver Dollar commemorating Li Yuan-Hung, listed as L&M-45 and Y-321. Made by the transfer die method, this counterfeit is top notch and could fool many collectors and dealers unfamiliar with authentic examples.

Li Yuan-Hung was a Chinese general and later served as Vice President of the Republic under Sun Yat-Sen, a position he held in 1912 when authentic issues of this coin were struck. He would later become President of the Republic of China. There are two different commemoratives of Li Yuan-Hung from 1912, one where he wears a hat (L&M-43 and L&M-44), and one where he is hatless (L&M-45). Good quality counterfeits exist for all issues.



Counterfeit China 1912 Li Yuan-Hung L&M-45, Y-321 Silver Dollar
Left to Right: Coin 1 Obverse; Coin 2 Obverse; Coin 3 Obverse
Click images to enlarge.



Counterfeit China 1912 Li Yuan-Hung L&M-45, Y-321 Silver Dollar
 Left to Right: Coin 1 Reverse; Coin 2 Reverse; Coin 3 Reverse
Click images to enlarge.

This counterfeit was made using the transfer die method, like other high quality counterfeits being manufactured today in China. This method uses a real coin to create the die, ensuring that the design is correct. With this method, flaws can also be transferred (such as contact marks). These flaws will appear on the dies that produce the counterfeit coins, and thus will appear on all counterfeit coins struck from the dies. In the case of this counterfeit, there is a significant repeating mark that distinguishes it: in the field behind Li Yuan-Hung's head, there are connecting scratches that almost form an "X" in the field. Other repeating marks on the obverse include a depression between the first two characters on the top, lines on Li Yuan-Hung's forehead and uniform, and contact marks in the field. On the reverse, there are repeating contact marks in the field next to the right wheat ear, above the "ON" of "ONE" and below the "DOL" of "DOLLAR." So far, all examples of this counterfeit that we have handled have been made of silver and are within the weight tolerance.



Counterfeit China 1912 Li Yuan-Hung L&M-45, Y-321 Silver Dollar
 Diagnostics circled in red
Click images to enlarge.

Examples of authentic 1912 Li Yuan-Hung dollars have brought as much as \$30,000 at auction. While this example has an "X" that marks it as counterfeit, without the knowledge of this diagnostic it could easily pass as genuine. Education is critical, and if there are any doubts certification from a reputable third-party grading service is recommended.

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United States

USA Coin Album: Coins of the 1950s - Part 5

Posted on 1/21/2014

Among the many coins minted in this decade, the quarter dollars are particularly interesting.

They offer numerous collectable varieties, about which I'll say more later, but they are a challenge even for the basic date/mint collector seeking high grade examples. The bold relief of Washington's portrait left it quite vulnerable to contact marks and scrapes, these being especially noticeable on his exposed cheek. The busier reverse design tends to hide such marks, and this only compounds the difficulty in assigning an overall grade to this coin type.



The quarters of the 1950s do fit the pattern set by other denominations. By and large, the Denver Mint coins were the ones most often fully struck from fresh or only moderately worn dies. The Philadelphia quarters were more likely to have obvious signs of die erosion, while the S-Mint pieces are rarely seen with bold strikes from fresh dies, most being quite blurry from heavily eroded die faces. Such coins, with their frosty, diffused luster, often produce the most appealing luster, and they more easily hide contact marks. Therefore, they may receive very high numbers from the grading services. Commercial grading emphasizes luster, surface quality and an absence of contact marks above design details, and the tendency of Washington quarters to develop attractive, symmetrical toning may reward these blurry coins with an additional grade point or a star (★) designation for outstanding eye appeal. There's nothing wrong with this, as it is the market standard, but the discriminating collector will want a high grade coin that is also sharply struck.

Most of the issues from the first eight years of the decade have fairly substantial

certified populations in grades as high as MS 67. It's obvious, however, that something happened beginning with the coinage of 1959 and lasting for the next several years that has resulted in far fewer top grades for these later coins. What is known for a fact is that many of the high grades assigned to quarters dated 1951-58 are based on the stellar toning they developed from the Mint's double-coin Uncirculated sets (not offered for 1950). Before 1959, these sets were housed in cardboard flats somewhat akin to the page of a coin folder, and this sulfurous material often imparted gorgeous, multicolor toning on one or both sides. Starting with the 1959 set, the Mint replaced this packaging with its pliofilm plastic envelopes. While the coins still toned a bit in this material, the result was more a detriment than an asset.

Another contributing factor may be the change in the coin market that occurred around 1959. It was at this time that the speculative frenzy over BU (Brilliant Uncirculated) rolls and even bags of coins really took off in a big way. These coins by the pound were hoarded and/or traded vigorously through 1964, being moved many times between owners and thus acquiring countless contact marks. Though many of these silver hoards were later lost to the melting pot in 1979-80, some of the remaining coins were later run through bulk grading services at NGC and PCGS, with only a very small percentage of them achieving high grades. The result is evident in the low numbers of 1959(P) and 1959-D quarters certified as MS 67.

Other condition rarities for the decade include all of the Denver Mint coins from 1952 through 1956, each of these dates having glaringly small certified populations in MS 67 or higher. The reason is that the D-Mint quarters seem to have suffered far more contact marks than those of the other two mints. Even those found in the cardboard Uncirculated sets are more heavily marked than their P and S cousins, so we know that the rough handling most likely occurred at the Denver Mint itself. Why the 1957-D and 1958-D quarters have much higher numbers of certified MS 67 examples is not fully explainable, but I have a theory. Until recently, most collectors disdained toned coins and sought only those that were fully white. Since far greater numbers of these later dates were preserved in roll and bag quantities, this source provided enough coins for collectors' albums, and the Uncirculated sets were thus less likely to be broken up and their coins dipped to make them white. These sets survived until quite recently, when their toning was more fully appreciated for both its aesthetic value and its tendency to reward submitters with high certified grades.

There were very few low mintage quarters during the 1950s, but those few that did stick out were widely hoarded at the time. While collecting Washington

quarters from circulation during the mid-late 1960s, the only two 1950s issues that eluded me were 1955(P) and 1958(P), both of which had noticeably lower than usual mintages (oddly enough, the very low mintage [3+ million] 1955-D quarter was somehow located from pocket change). The two Philadelphia issues were scooped up by speculators as soon as their production numbers were published. They are thus quite common today in Mint State but are rarely seen in grades lower than About Uncirculated-50. A VF 1958(P) quarter is thus a condition rarity!

It seems that I’ve run out of room for this month, and I’ll continue my examination of 1950s quarters next time. Until then you can study your own collections and get a running start.

David W. Lange's column, “USA Coin Album,” appears monthly in the Numismatist, the official publication of the [American Numismatic Association](#).

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From the NGC Archives: 1913 Buffalo Nickel, Type 1

Posted on 1/21/2014

The first issue of James E. Fraser's magnificent five-cent piece, the 1913-P Type 1 Nickel is among the most popular United States coins.

It was first released to the public on March 4, 1913 to much critical acclaim, though a few technical flaws prompted noticeable revisions just a few months later.



The new coins immediately captured the public's fancy. Many thousands of the Type 1 nickels from all three mints were saved uncirculated, though precious few are as beautiful as this Philadelphia specimen. Fully struck from fresh dies, it is virtually the equal of any proof. Its surfaces are bright and quite lustrous. A pale golden shade overall, fabulous rainbows of iridescent colors encircle both sides, providing a feast for the eye.

Are you interested in learning more about these coins? Click [here](#) to visit the NGC Coin Explorer and read on.

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Chinese Coins: Year of the Horse Coins Gallop In

Posted by Peter Anthony on 1/21/2014

The 2014 Year of the Horse coins are part of the third lunar cycle coin set issued by the China Mint.

The Year of the Snake concludes on January 30, 2014 and the Year of the Horse arrives the next day, January 31. The China Mint has already released its coins for the approaching Lunar New Year so lets take a look at them as well as some older horse coins, including a Panda.

The new coins showcase two different designs. Most coins feature a running horse in the foreground and elements of a stylized horse's head in the background. There are also four coins with color screened on them. These four display a horse in traditional folk style with auspicious flowers in the background.

As it does every year, the China Mint offers Year of the Horse coins in four shapes: fan, scallop (plum blossom), round and rectangular.

The fan shaped coin has a special connection to the 12-year Lunar cycle. When a dozen fan coins are placed end-to-end they form a circle and every animal in the zodiac is represented. This circle also echoes the moon's shape and has neither a beginning nor end. It makes for a very impressive set. 2014 fan coins are available as 10 Yuan 1 oz. silver and 150 Yuan 1/3 oz. gold.



Chinese 2014 Fan 10 Yuan
Click images to enlarge.

The scallop-shaped coins represent one of the most significant symbols in Chinese culture, the plum blossom (梅花). This flower blooms as the ground is covered in snow during winter. Even as the rest of the earth lays fallow and seemingly dead the beauty, fragrance and perseverance of the plum blossoms reminds us of the spring to come. There are three 2014 Lunar coins in the shape of the plum blossom: a 10 Yuan 1 oz. silver, a 200 Yuan ½ oz. gold and the 10,000 Yuan 1 kg. gold.



Chinese 2014 Scalloped 10 Yuan
Click images to enlarge.

There are two versions of the round coin: colorized and standard. The colorized coins come as 10 Yuan 1 oz. silver, 50 Yuan 1/10 oz. gold, 50 Yuan 5 oz. silver and 2,000 Yuan 5 oz. gold. The non-colorized coins are available as 10 Yuan 1 oz. silver, 300 Yuan 1 kg. silver, 20,000 Yuan 2 kg. gold and a plate-sized 100,000 Yuan 10 kg. gold. 2014 is the first year a 2 kg. Gold Lunar coin has been released.



Chinese 2014 Colorized Gold 50 Yuan
Click images to enlarge.



Chinese 2014 Colorized 10 Yuan
Click images to enlarge.

Last but not least are a pair of rectangular 5 oz. coins in silver and gold. The silver rectangle has a 50 Yuan denomination while the gold coin is 2,000 Yuan.



Chinese 2014 Rectangle 50 Yuan
Click images to enlarge.

The 2014 Year of the Horse coins are part of the third Lunar cycle that the China Mint has issued. The first cycle Year of the Horse coins were released in 1990. The 15 gram silver and 8 gram gold coins of this first group are all quite popular and sought after. The silver coins of this era can be real challenges to find in PF 69 condition.

The second cycle of the Year of the Horse Lunar coins are from 2002. In both gold and silver, the 2002 fan and scallop coins are keys to their respective series. They are difficult to find for sale and sell for significantly more than the fans and scallops of surrounding years.

For Panda collectors there is an interesting method to celebrate the Year of the Horse. In 1989 the China Mint struck a pair of medals for the New York International Numismatic Convention: a ¼ oz. gold and a 1 oz. silver. The announced mintage of the gold medal was 5,000 and the silver was set at 4,000. The reverse side of both medals shows a charming seated Panda. On the obverse of the gold medal, however, is an image of a ceramic Chinese horse. The silver medal's obverse shows a galloping horse. This is one of the few times that

the China Mint has struck Panda medals with another animal besides a Panda on them.

Today the horse is regarded in China as a symbol of speedy success. So as the Year of the Horse gallops in, I wish everyone a successful 2014.

Peter Anthony is an expert on Chinese modern coins with a particular focus on Panda coins. He is an analyst for the [NGC Chinese Modern Coin Price Guide](#) as well as a consultant on Chinese modern coins.

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United States

Brazilian Pedro I Coronation 6400 Reis Sets World-record Price at NYINC

Posted on 1/21/2014

The Pedro I "Coronation Piece" more than doubled its \$200,000+ pre-auction estimate at Heritage's New York auction.

A stunning and pristine [1822 Pedro I gold 6400 Reis, AU55 NGC](#) realized \$499,375 on January 5 to lead Heritage Auctions' \$15 million [World & Ancient Coin Signature Auction](#), held at the Waldorf-Astoria, as part the New York International Numismatic Convention (NYINC). All prices include Buyer's Premium.



"This was an incredible auction," said Cristiano Bierrenbach, Vice President of Heritage Auctions. "There was so much interest from all over the world, and so many collectors interested in bidding, that we had a feeling something special was going to happen."

The Pedro I "Coronation Piece," as it is known, more than doubled its \$200,000+ pre-auction estimate when it finished just shy of the half-million dollar mark, setting a world record price realized for a Brazilian coin.

"For Brazilians, Pedro I is one of the most important leader since the inception of the country," Bierrenbach said, "and for Brazilian numismatists, there is no coin more desirable than this very issue, and this very coin is the finest available. This record price is well-warranted."

"This coin is essentially unmatched in beauty, rarity and desirability," said Bierrenbach. "There are no more than 50 of these special coins in existence and a quarter of those are untouchable in institutional collections. This auction

represented an amazing opportunity for a very advanced collector."

Demand for Latin American rarities continued throughout the auction, with the top trio of the auction rounded out by [the finest extant specimen of the Guatemalan Central American Republic 1824 8 Escudos](#), graded MS 65 NGC, which realized a hearty \$176,250 final price realized.

Russian collectors proved equally passionate about their nation's unique coinage when an [Elizabeth Dassier Rouble 1757 СПБ-ЯІ, MS64 NGC](#), from the Willy Fuchs Collection — "An exceedingly rare mint state Dassier Rouble," said Bierrenbach. — matched the \$176,250 price realized to match the Guatemalan 8 Escudos.

The Hans Cook Collection of British Gold, beginning with Edward III (1327-1377) and ending at George VI (1937), represented every monarch of the 600-year span (as well as the Cromwell and Commonwealth issues). The hammered coins were led by a spectacular example of the classic [1839 Victoria "Una and the Lion" Proof £5](#), which received plenty of collector buzz and soared to a \$141,000 price realized.

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Canadian Error Makes First Appearance at GreatCollections

Posted on 1/21/2014

This silver \$20 coin with missing edge lettering is only the second such example discovered of the sold-out issue.

January 15, 2014, Irvine, Calif. – In 2013, the Royal Canadian Mint released a popular Silver \$20 piece titled “Portrait of Power”. The coin boldly features the American Bald Eagle and was released with special edge lettering. Only 7,500 were minted and they sold out in a few hours.

After the coins were initially graded and sold by several coin dealers, a coin was discovered without the edge lettering, a common minting problem with US modern dollars, but until now, isolated to coins issued south of the Canadian border. The discovery piece was the subject of an NGC Press Release and to date, this example is only the second such coin found and is the first to appear in a major auction.



This coin was discovered when a collector was reviewing coins he purchased months earlier. He sent the coin to NGC for review and they confirmed it was a Mint Error and designated on the holder “Missing Edge Lettering”, with the grade NGC Proof 66 Ultra Cameo.



The coin is being sold by GreatCollections unreserved in their auctions on Sunday, February 23, 2014. It can be viewed at www.greatcollections.com.

“It is always fun to auction a coin that has never appeared in a major auction. We expect spirited bidding from clients in Canada and error collectors in the US by the time bidding ends on Sunday, February 23rd” said Ian Russell, President/founder of GreatCollections.

To find out more about the Canadian Missing Edge Lettering Silver Dollar, please visit www.greatcollections.com or telephone 1-800-44-COINS (1-800-442-6467).

About GreatCollections

GreatCollections is an auction and direct sale venue for PCGS, NGC and ANACS certified coins, as well as coins approved by CAC. GreatCollections handles each coin transaction from start to finish. For sellers, GreatCollections offers professional imaging for each coin, cash advances as appropriate, and other individualized services generally not available with the large auction houses and other websites, freeing the seller to do nothing except collect the proceeds of the sale directly from GreatCollections. Buyers benefit by entrusting a venue whose principals have years of coin experience and whose reputations in the industry are impeccable.

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2014 America the Beautiful Quarters Silver Proof Set Available Jan. 21

Posted on 1/21/2014

The five quarters in this set honor Great Smoky Mountains National Park (Tennessee), Shenandoah National Park (Virginia), Arches National Park (Utah), Great Sand Dunes National Park (Colorado) and Everglades National Park (Florida).

[WASHINGTON, DC] – Sales will open for the 2014 United States Mint America the Beautiful Quarters Silver Proof Set (product code Q5F) Jan. 21, 2014, at noon Eastern Time (ET) at the bureau's online catalog at <http://www.usmint.gov/catalog> and at 1-800-USA-MINT (872-6468). The set is priced at \$31.95, and customers should add \$4.95 to all domestic orders for shipping and handling. Hearing- and speech-impaired customers with TTY equipment may order by calling 1-888-321-MINT (6468).

The five quarters in this set honor Great Smoky Mountains National Park (Tennessee), Shenandoah National Park (Virginia), Arches National Park (Utah), Great Sand Dunes National Park (Colorado), and Everglades National Park (Florida). All coins were struck at the United States Mint at San Francisco in 90 percent silver. The obverse of the coins (heads side) bears John Flanagan's 1932 portrait of George Washington.

The United States Mint America the Beautiful Quarters Silver Proof Set may also be purchased through the Online Subscription Program. This year, the bureau is offering a 10 percent discount on subscription orders for this set, reducing the subscription-only price to \$28.75. The discount will apply to all sets purchased through both new and existing subscriptions.

About the United States Mint

The United States Mint was created by Congress in 1792 and became part of the Department of the Treasury in 1873. It is the Nation's sole manufacturer of legal tender coinage and is responsible for producing circulating coinage for the Nation to conduct its trade and commerce. The United States Mint also produces numismatic products, including proof, uncirculated, and commemorative coins; Congressional Gold Medals; and silver and gold bullion coins. The United States Mint's numismatic programs are self-sustaining and operate at no cost to the taxpayer.

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